

DOCUMENT NO. 8

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. 11

NSC ~~BRIEFING~~

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS, S, C

NEXT REVIEW DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

AUTH: RR 70-2

DATE: 116-80 REVIEWER: ITALY: NENNI SOCIALIST PARTY CONGRESS

6 February 1957

- I. Congress opening 6 February in Venice to continue through 10 February
  - A. No agenda reported but main question is whether to maintain Communist ties or reunite with Saragat's Democratic Socialists. (Parties were one until 1947)
  - B. Congress currently dominating Italian political scene because results may have important effect on Christian Democrat-dominated government and Communist-led opposition.
- II. Nenni's following in party favor merger, pro-Communist Socialists oppose.
  - A. Nenni himself reportedly claims support of 35 percent, with 15 percent "close" to his position, 30 percent for pro-Communists, and 20 percent undecided.
  - B. He reportedly expects 60 percent majority of congress.
  - C. Pierre Commin, acting secretary general of French Socialists, said to be predicting 60-70 percent majority for Nenni.
    1. Commin, who sponsored 1956 negotiations between Nenni and Saragat, attending congress.
    2. Aneurin Bevan representing British Labor Party, Morgan Phillips (Britain) the Socialist International.
- III. Not clear how definite a resolution will come out of congress.
  - A. If Nenni Socialists meet Saragat's terms of a clear break with Communists and acceptance of Italy's NATO ties, Saragat Socialists are expected speed up own party congress,

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which awaits Nenni congress results.

B. If two parties then decide to reunite, Democratic Socialists expected to leave cabinet, to which Nenni Socialists are in parliamentary opposition.

1. New party might try convince Christian Democrats of good faith by acting as loyal opposition before asking government posts.

C. If no formal agreement is reached between the two parties, many observers expect increasing informal cooperation at grass roots.

IV. Communists have indicated concern over possibilities of Socialist reunification.

A. <sup>g</sup>Togliatti on 20 January attacked moved toward merger as "harmful and dangerous" and declared his party would "energetically work" on the side of anti-reunificationist Socialists.

B. Pravda on 4 February pointed to "reaction" "as trying" "to push Italian Socialists to capitulation before Social Democrats!"

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